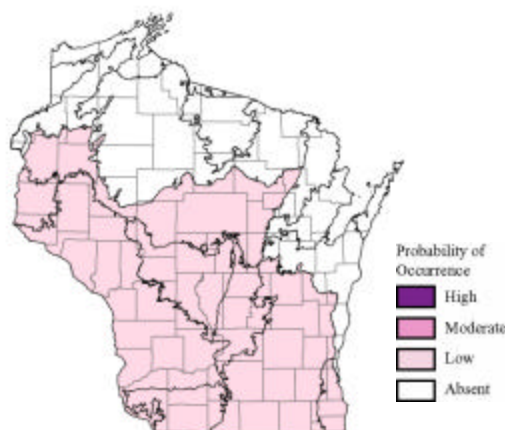


## Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

### Species Assessment Scores\*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	5
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	1
Global threats:	2
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.1
Area of importance:	1

\* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



### Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

### Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Surrogate grasslands
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands
Western Prairie	Mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate grasslands

### Threats and Issues

- Elimination of hedgerows and replacement of older, concrete silos with modern silos and outbuildings in agricultural landscapes.
- Succession of grassland habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Drainage or flooding of wet meadows. Loss of grassland habitat through development and the intensification of agriculture, including early and frequent harvest of hay, and conversion of grassland to row crops or tree plantations.
- Pesticides, especially anticoagulant rodenticides, may present problems for this species.
- This species is at the northern edge of its range and may be limited by winter severity, including snow depth. If this is the primary factor limiting the Wisconsin population of Barn Owls, then improvements in grassland habitat availability during the breeding season may not benefit this species.

**Priority Conservation Actions**

- As part of a larger strategy to conserve grassland birds and grassland habitats, explore traditional options (easements, enrollment in Conservation Reserve Program) with landowners.
- Restoration/maintenance of large patches of open grasslands, wet meadows, and compatible agricultural uses should be part of a landscape approach benefitting grassland birds, including the Barn Owl.
- Meetings with local landowners and presentations at community functions will enhance education opportunities about this species and other grassland birds.
- Nest boxes have been proven effective in other states, but not in Wisconsin to date.
- Conduct research to determine the relative effects of winter severity and other threats to the Barn Owl population.
- Conduct research to determine if wind farm development is a threat to population stability.